BATH & COUNTIES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lansdown Environs Archaeology Project (LEAP)

2024

Four Acre Field geophysics report

John Oswin and Janet Pryke

Abstract

Archaeological geophysical survey of Four Acre Field in January 2024 was undertaken to provide continuity of understanding across the fields at the northern end of the Lansdown plateau, just north of Bath. Methods included magnetometry, magnetic susceptibility, twin-probe resistance and resistivity profiling (ERT). Magnetometry showed faint but possible signs of round houses and clearly showed other possible remains, including a half-oval feature 20 m in diameter, truncated by the northern boundary. Beyond this boundary, the ground is deeply pitted and very hazardous. This deeply pitted area is described in Anglo-Saxon charters and may well be Roman in origin, so the half-oval feature could be pre-Roman. Maps are not helpful in this interpretation. Looking at the wider picture, magnetic susceptibility results suggest continuity of territory from both eastern and western sides of the current main road.

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Bath and Counties Archaeological Society

April 2024

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Preface

Four Acre Field is a relatively small area of survey, but usefully fills a gap between the eastern and western areas of northern Lansdown previously surveyed by BACAS. It provides a significant addition to the previous surveys. Thanks are due to the landowner and tenant for permission to do the survey; the many regular dog walkers and horse riders who showed forbearance towards us, and the field crew who undertook the work, albeit in relatively benign January weather.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to the landowner Kitty Todd and tenant Sue Bishop for allowing us access to this field to undertake this survey.

We thank the Bathscape Project for support and supplying us with the two Frobisher TAR3 resistance meters, and also for magnetic susceptibility equipment support.

We acknowledge with thanks Rick Buettner for photographic work and John Richards for his help with editing.

In our mapping work, we acknowledge Google Earth for downloads for base images of the land, the Ordnance Survey for allowing us download and reproduction of maps under Crown copyright license number 100060399, also the Environment Agency for publicly available LiDAR data. For LiDAR geographic information system (GIS) processing we acknowledge the use of the QGIS project website (qgis.org).

1 Introduction

1.1 Location

Four Acre Field is situated on the Lansdown plateau, close to the northern slope but still on flat land. It is centered on ST 7205 7005. It is at approximately 230 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) but with a rise and fall of no more than 2 m. The field is bounded to the east by the main road, to the south by a driveway and to the north-west by extensive quarrying. Only about four acres remains for pasture, originally part of a much larger field, the Sleight (Weston Tithe Map). A note on the Somerset Historic Environment Agency (HER) relates the quarries to a way point on the boundary of Cold Ashton (South Gloucestershire) manor from AD 939 (HER 66896), (Grundy, 1935). The HER also refers to a charter for North Stoke (Grundy, 1935a), and a late 18th century reference to the site.

There is a bridleway running across the field from South-West to North-East, and the field is much used for exercising dogs.

Figure 1.1 shows the general location. Figure 1.2 shows the location of the field within the group so far surveyed in the Lansdown Environs Archaeological Project. The site is part of a scheduled battlefield, Battle of Lansdown, 1643. This is shown in figure 1.3.

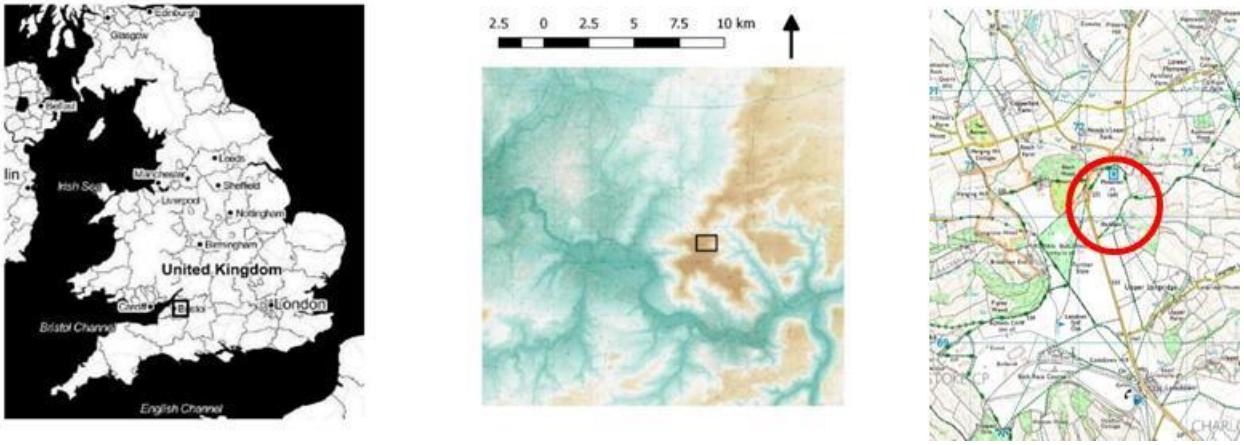

Figure 1.1. General location of the sites on Lansdown.

Figure 1.2. Location of Four Acre Field in relation to other fields surveyed. *Taken from Google Earth, 2014.*

1.2 Dates

The survey was conducted on the 16th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th of January 2024. Extra days had been allowed in case of slow progress or bad weather, but were not needed.

1.3 Personnel

The survey was coordinated by Janet Pryke, with John Oswin as technical overseer. The BACAS member volunteers who helped with the work were Louise Williamson, Wendy Russ, Bridget Hetzel, John Knapper, Terri Bell, Ian Perkins, Heather Greenwood, Colin Wisbey, Christopher Davies, Rick Buettner, Sharn Pepperell, Elizabeth Paul and Tim Lunt.

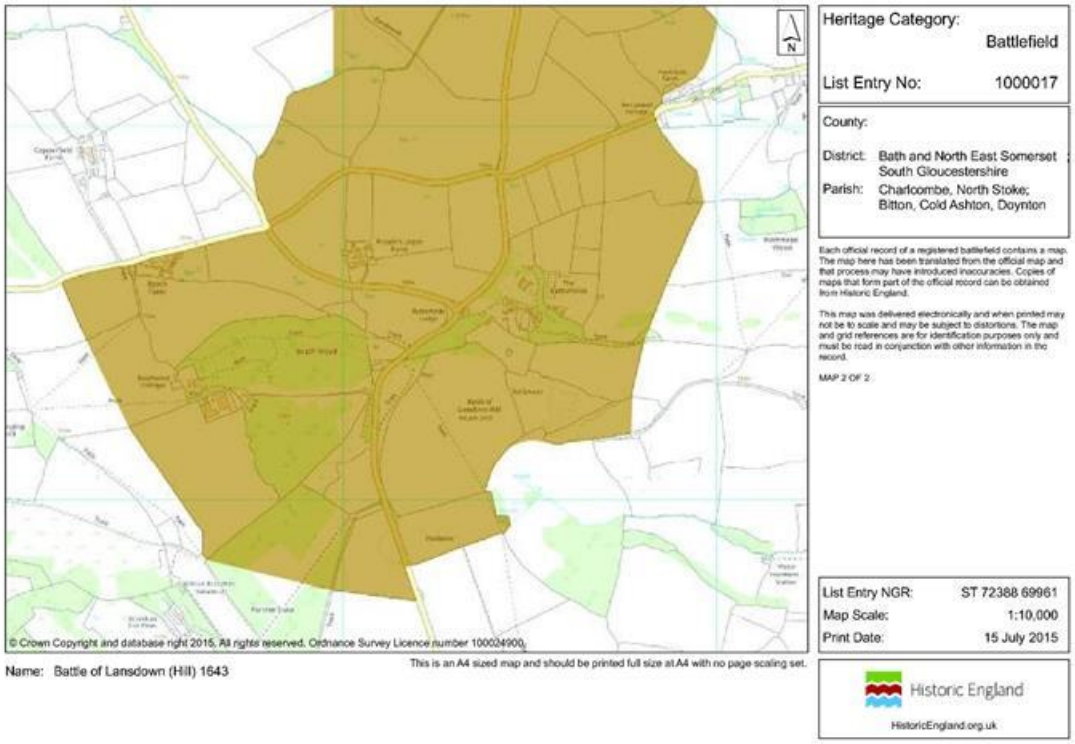

Figure 1.3. Plan of scheduled battlefield. Battle of Lansdown, 1643, Courtesy Historic England.

1.4 Scope

This report details the geophysical results obtained during this survey and relates these to the geophysical and landscape observations of the local group of fields so far surveyed as part of this project. A field further to the south, Fair Field containing the Twin Barrows site has also been surveyed (Lowe et.al. 2021) but it is too distant to be included in this comparison.

2 Method

2.1 Gridding

The survey area was laid out in 20 m grid squares, as is standard BACAS practice. A starting line was set up 2m from the wall, as described in Appendix 1. Subsequent grid squares were set up using tapes and Pythagorean triangles based on this. Instruments were walked in (grid) north-south traverses working across the field. Stake positions were marked with temporary line paint so that their positions could be reinstated after they had been removed at the end of the previous day.

2.2 Magnetometry

The survey was carried out using a Bartington 601-2 dual fluxgate gradiometer set to take readings at 0.25 m intervals along lines 1 m apart, giving 1600 readings per full grid square.

2.3 Magnetic Susceptibility (MAGSUS)

A Bartington MS2 magsus was used on walkabout across the field. As the magsus has no logging, results have to be manually stored before transcription to a spreadsheet for analysis. It would be unwieldy to write 800 results for each square, so the field was surveyed at random locations about 12 paces apart, mainly sunwise in decreasing circles. Where there was found to be significant difference between a result and the previous, extra readings would be taken locally to understand the extent of the altered values.

Locations were logged using a Garmin Etrex hand-held GPS device. This was precise to 1 m (grid reference to 5 figures north and east) but only accurate to between 2 and 5 m. Locations are recorded here against 5 figure grid references.

2.4 Twin-probe Resistance

The electrical resistance survey was conducted using the two new Frobisher RM-3 resistance meters kindly provided by Bathscape. The machines were operated simultaneously but kept separated by at least 60 m so as to reduce the risk of crosstalk. They were set to take 2 readings per metre along lines 1 m apart, thus giving 800 readings per full grid square. Data were downloaded as a text file and converted using spreadsheets, providing the equivalent of zig-zag data for import into INSITE analysis software.

Post-survey analysis suggested that the meters had had a number of drop-outs during operation, leaving blank or 'low' holes within the measurement plots. These degraded the final plot somewhat, but not enough to invalidate the results.

2.5 Resistivity Profiling

Profiles were taken using a Frobisher TAR-3 resistance meter with 32 probes available. The profiles were taken to be level, although the combined profiles 1 and 2 were observed to have a dip of approximately 20 cm between 9 and 26 m.

2.6 Computers and software

At the time of the survey the resistance fieldwork here was downloaded and analysed using BACAS' Windows XP computer.

The magnetometer was downloaded using Bartington proprietary software v3.16, which rendered the data as parallel lines. The raw data was then passed through BACAS proprietary zero-median de-stripe software prior to analysis using INSITE.

The twin-probe devices were downloaded to a folder and then the text file was used to extract each grid in turn, taking just the final column and copying this to a text file and converting it to dat file ready for use in INSITE as a zig-zag file.

The profiler data were downloaded from the Frobisher which also converted the data to resistivity values and locations prior to processing in Geotomo RES2DINV 32-bit software v 3.71.112 full version for analysis. Relative height data were added to provide topographic as well as electrical profiling.

2.7 LiDAR and map regression

The one-meter resolution LiDAR (light detection and ranging) available for the UK Environment Agency was used to look at both coarse landscape details, via contour mapping, and fine detail via appropriate forms of hillshading to observe how any geophysically observed features related to surface topography.

Google Earth was used to observe the modern landscape from satellite imagery. Old first- and second edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted (National Library of Scotland) as well as modern Ordnance Survey maps, via licence number 100060399 The Tithe Map image was available via the Somerset HER, but the schedule was not available. This was accessed at the Bath Record Office. Estate maps from the Blathwayt or other collections were not consulted.

3 Results

3.1 Magnetometry

The magnetometry was noted to be rather noisy during the survey, so the plot was de-sensitised to remove much of this. However, this process may have removed 'real' data as well as noise, although such details may be subject to debate. Both plots are shown side-by-side in figure 3.1, so that all details may be observed and interpretation questioned.

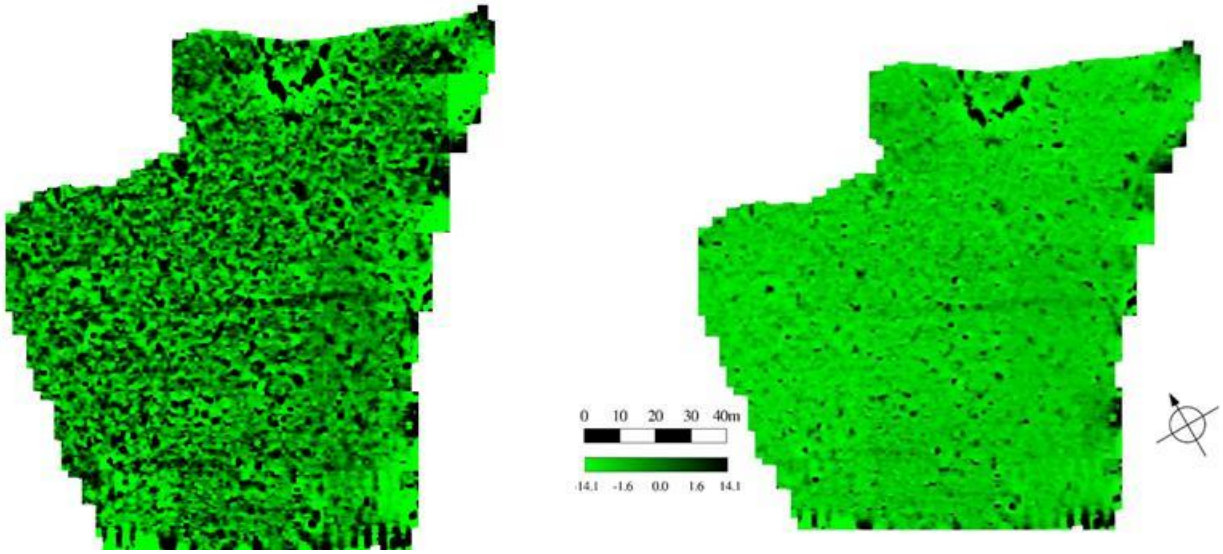

Figure 3.1. Magnetometry plot. Left: unprocessed, noisy display; Right: processed display.

There are slight signs of an east-west line across the field, approximately 60 m north of the southern edge. This is more conspicuous in the noisy plot, with a possible second line 10 m to the north. These point towards the settlement in Monument Field

The possibility of a cluster of round patterns that could be house signatures shows faintly some 20 to 40 m south of the northern edge, slightly east of central in both plots.

There are the faint signs of possible ploughing around this area. A number of strong point anomalies are probably pits. These are generally in random patterns, but a group of six 20 m from the southern boundary, central, may also possibly represent a round house.

The most obvious feature is truncated by the northern boundary. The remaining half-oval is 20 m north-south by 20 m east-west. It is visible on the ground as a slight depression, up to 0.5 m deep, with steep sides. It may be older than the quarry area edge which may truncate it. These quarries may be Roman, given the Anglo-Saxon charter references (Grundy, 1935, 1935a) but may be more recent, as they are not shown on maps.

3.2 Magnetic Susceptibility (Magsus)

Just over 200 magsus readings were taken. The plot is shown in figure 3.2.

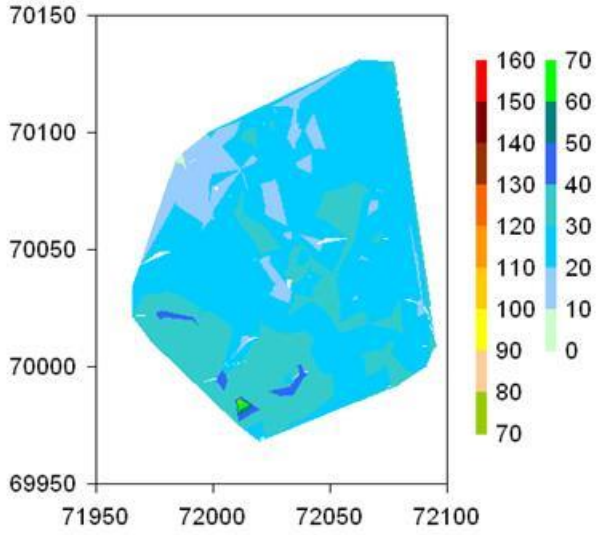

Figure 3.2 Magnetic Susceptibility (magsus) plot. Coordinates are given in National Grid Eastings and Northings (ST square). 1 m resolution.

There are no areas of particularly high reading, although the south-west portion is higher. The small area of low readings in the north-west is in the rough area beyond the good grass.

3.3 Twin-probe Resistance

The plot for twin-probe resistance is shown in figure 3.3. The instruments were experiencing some ‘drop outs’ in readings, and these are evident particularly centrally and on the western side.

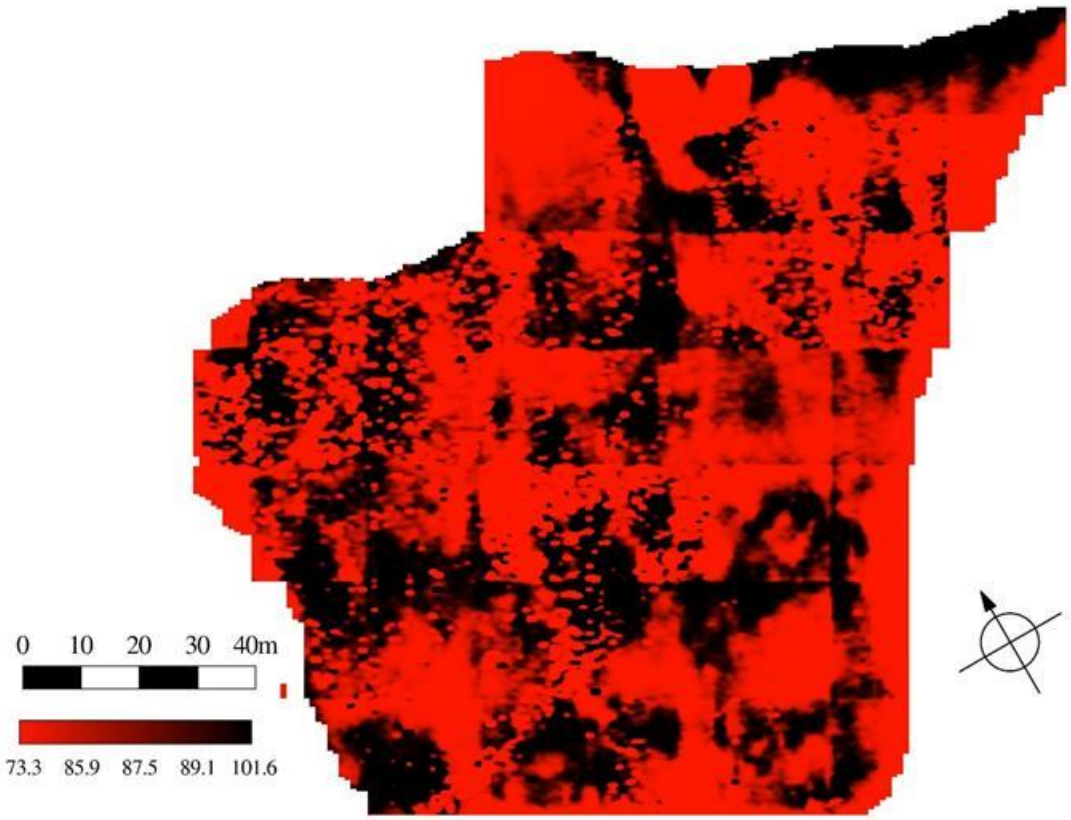

Figure 3.3 Twin-probe resistance plot.

The variability between light and dark rather randomly across the plot suggest uneven depth of soil to bedrock across the site. The bedrock is not at great depth and the field may have been graded at some time to achieve its relatively flat surface. There is a rectangular area, possible indicating a building, pointing north-east just over 40 m north of the southern boundary, on the eastern side.

The feature that was strong in the magnetometry can also be seen here as a half-oval patch of low resistance against the northern boundary, but it is not as well defined as it was magnetically.

3.4 Resistivity Profiles

A total of four profiles were done, and two of these were concatenated into one. These two were overlapped at 15 m from start of the first, giving a total length of 46 m. One-metre probe spacing was used throughout. The first three used eight lines to give 4 m depth. The fourth profile did not connect with the other three and was reduced to six lines as the bedrock was shallow.

The profile locations are shown with respect to magnetometry in figure 3.4.

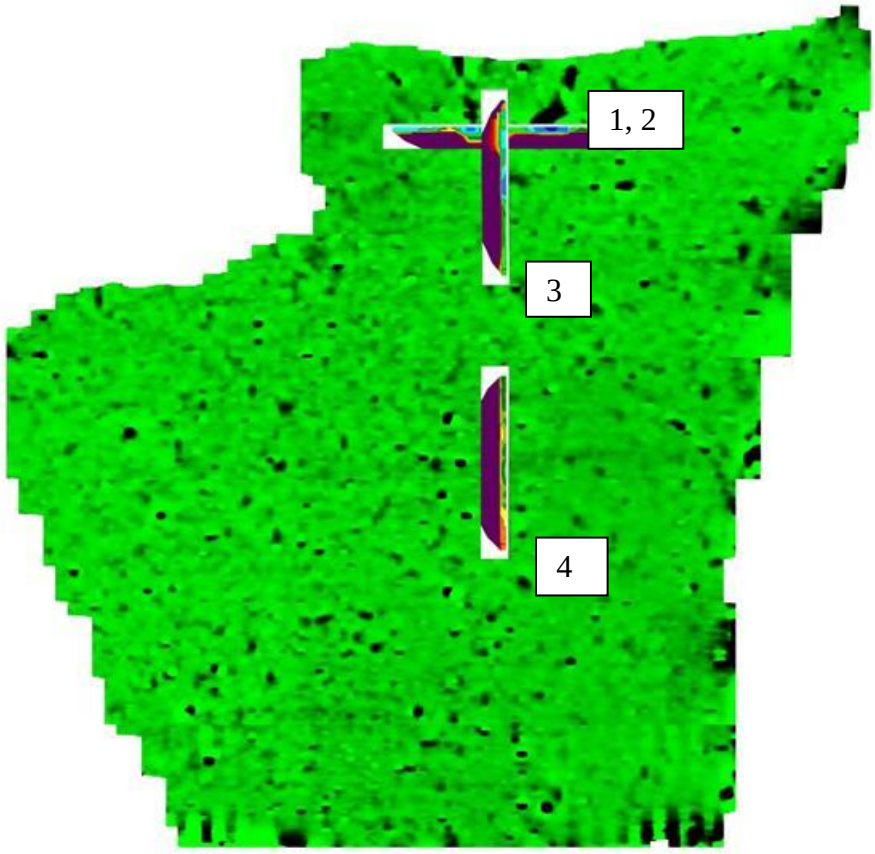

Figure 3.4. Location of resistivity profiles, shown overlaid on magnetometry.

The location of the [1, 2] line was along an east-west grid line, starting 5 m west of the marked grid corner, and continuing, once concatenated, for 46 m. The topography was not included, but the feature causing the anomaly was some 15-20 cm lower than other parts of the line, and corresponds to the area of low surface resistivity seen. The line is shown below in figure 3.5. The surface shows the presence of extra moisture, but there is higher resistivity between surface and bedrock, even if the bedrock also has extra moisture.

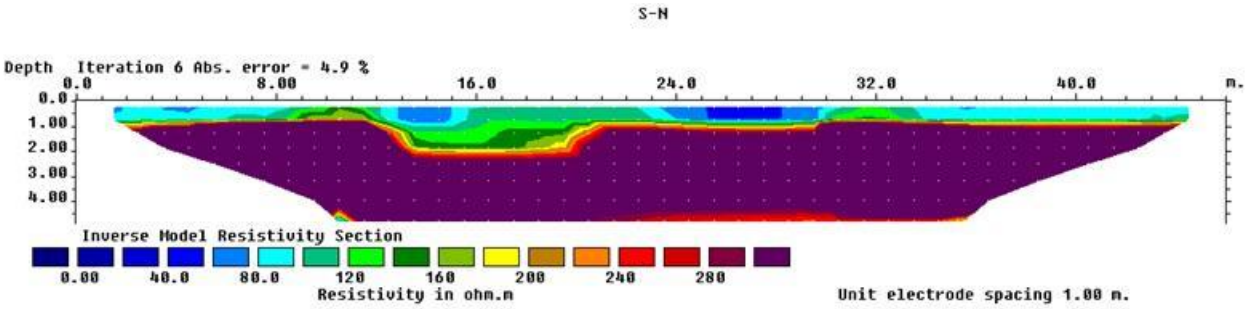

Figure 3.5 Resistivity profile 1 and 2 joined. West-east.

Profile 3 was set out at right angles to [1, 2], 20 m along its length, so heading south. It started at a point 5 m north of [1, 2], so continued to a point 26 m south. It is shown in figure 3.6.
The profile seems to show much greater moisture within the feature, which extends to 16 m. However, it does show less moisture just at the point (5 m) where it crosses profile [1, 2]. Increased apparent moisture through the bedrock may be a calculation effect, not real.

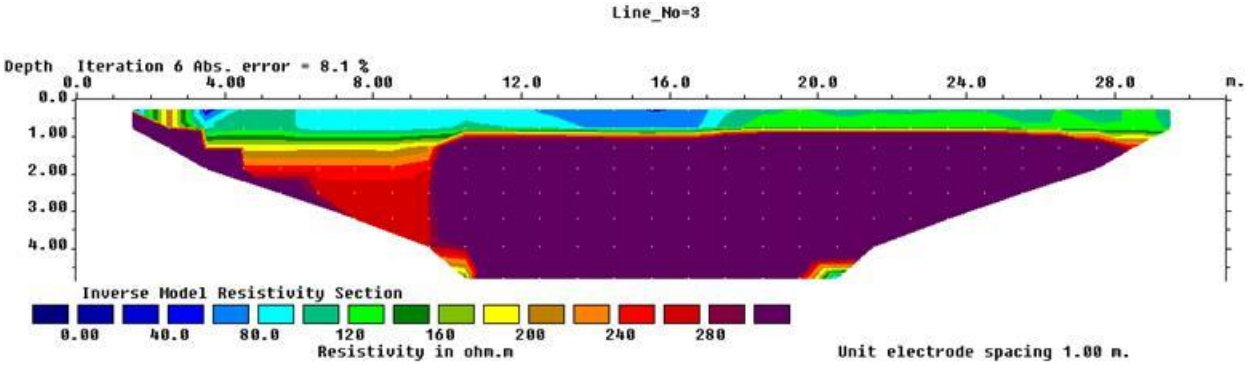

Figure 3.6 Profile 3. North-south

The fourth profile was done further south down the field, starting 40 m south of the line of profile [1, 2] and continuing for 31 m. It was on the same alignment as profile 3. It did not relate to the main feature, but to the line in the magnetometry crossing the plot from east to west. This would appear at about 18 m along the line. If there were a second line, as the original noisy plot suggested, that would appear at about 5 m. Note that this plot started with zero to the north, so maintaining the same orientation as profile 3. Readings were only taken to 3 m depth.

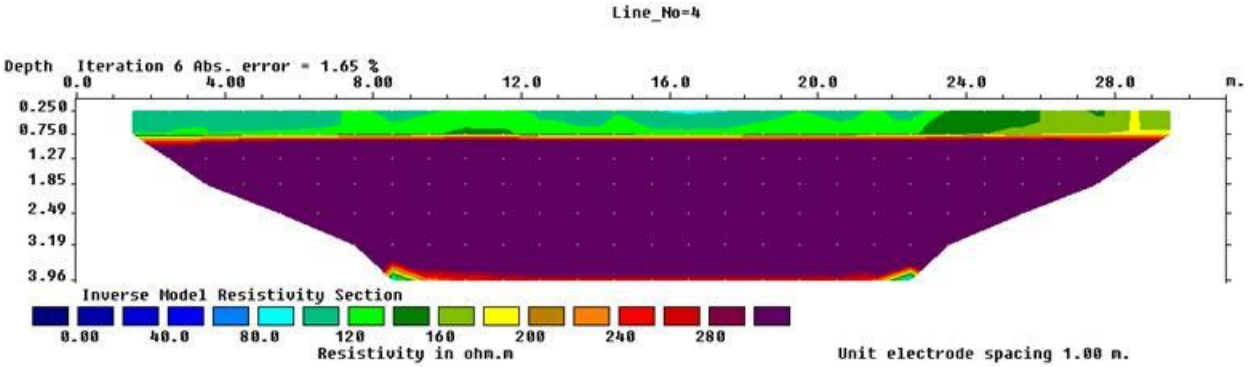

Figure 3.7 Profile 4. North-south

There are no very strong marks to correspond with the east-west line or its possible northern parallel, although there is a distinct change to dryer soil from 24 m. The profile was thus rather inconclusive. Note that the east-west line is visible as a slight shelved area in LiDAR profiling, but not on the ground.

3.5 LiDAR and Map regression

The LiDAR plot (1m resolution) of the whole survey area will be discussed later, but the area around Four Acre field is shown separately in figure 3.8 below, as this has a bearing on interpretation of the magnetometry plot.

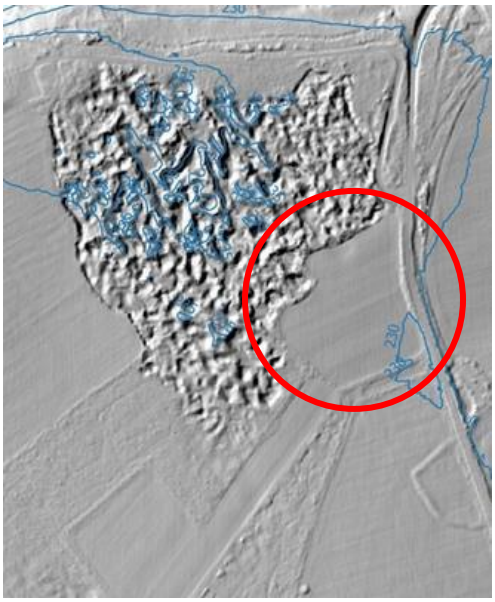

Figure 3.8 LiDAR hillshade display of Four Acre Field and surroundings. Field outlined in red.

The area to the north-west is seen to be a mass of quarrying. However, when earlier maps are consulted, these show a larger field, extending up to the county boundary, which now lies undetectable within the quarries. This earlier outline is shown in the Tithe map (observed on Somerset HER) as well as on earlier ordnance survey maps as shown below in figure 3.9.

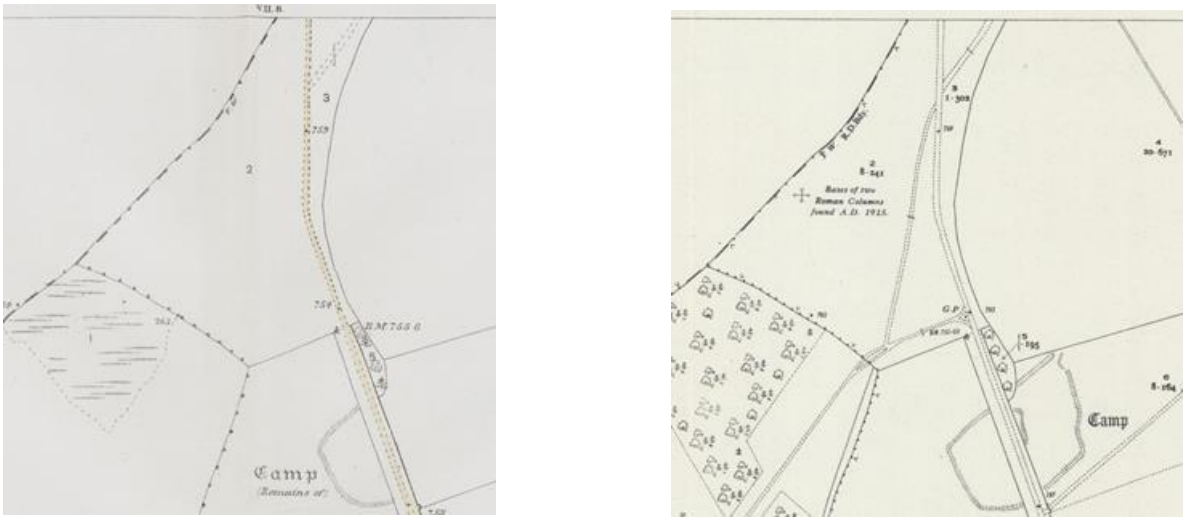

Figure 3.9 Ordnance Survey first and second editions, 1884 (left) and 1931 (right) of the whole field. Courtesy National Library of Scotland.

Four Acre Field as is now is part of the tapering field shown at the top right of each map. In both cases, the old field is shown extending to the county boundary, which is clearly marked in spite of being invisible in the LiDAR. The north-western area is not even shown as rough ground. There could be a debate therefore about the date of the quarrying, even if Grundy identified it as quarries in Saxon times. Some of Grundy's speculations are now questioned. One reference (John Playne, 1875, quoted in Somerset HER 66896) states that this was an area of intensive, impenetrable quarrying.

There are references to these pits in the accounts of the Civil War battle area. These quarry pits could well have been the place to which Sir Ralph Hopton moved his soldiers, " lodging themselves amongst the many little pits betwixt the wall and the wood – from whence we galled them cruelly" as described by John Wroughton (The Battle of Lansdown 1643), 2008.

There was also more recent military activity here. In T. S. Bush, Discovery on Lansdown. Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (Bath branch), 1914-1918 (1919), 127-128, there is reference to works by North Somerset Yeomanry in 1914. "On this side of the road are many mounds, extending over a considerable area that had evidently been thrown up at a remote period when quarrying... Here the work consisted of making a bomb-proof shelter with trenches leading into it, outer trenches and dug out." We have no information on the extent of this work.

On September 9th 1914 two column capitals were discovered as part of these works was being done, grid ref: S.T. 7196 7010 (just to the north of the quarry boundary to our work, see HER 61648). These are now displayed in the Roman Baths Museum. There is also an adjacent record for 63987: A First World War military shelter, S of Beech Wood, Lansdown, Charlcombe.

We have observed the magnetometer anomaly possibly part overlaid by the quarrying area edge. The quarry could also be Roman. We have noted that there appear be similar quarry type arrangements near the Chedworth, Gloucester site in LiDAR imaging of that area.

4 The wider picture

The intent in surveying Four Acre Field was to add to the larger geophysics survey so far covering the northern end of the Lansdown plateau. No specific targets were expected. However, the geophysics did find new interest. In terms of the overall picture, it is easiest to start with the landscape. Figure 4.1 shows this as hillshade LiDAR with 5 m contours.

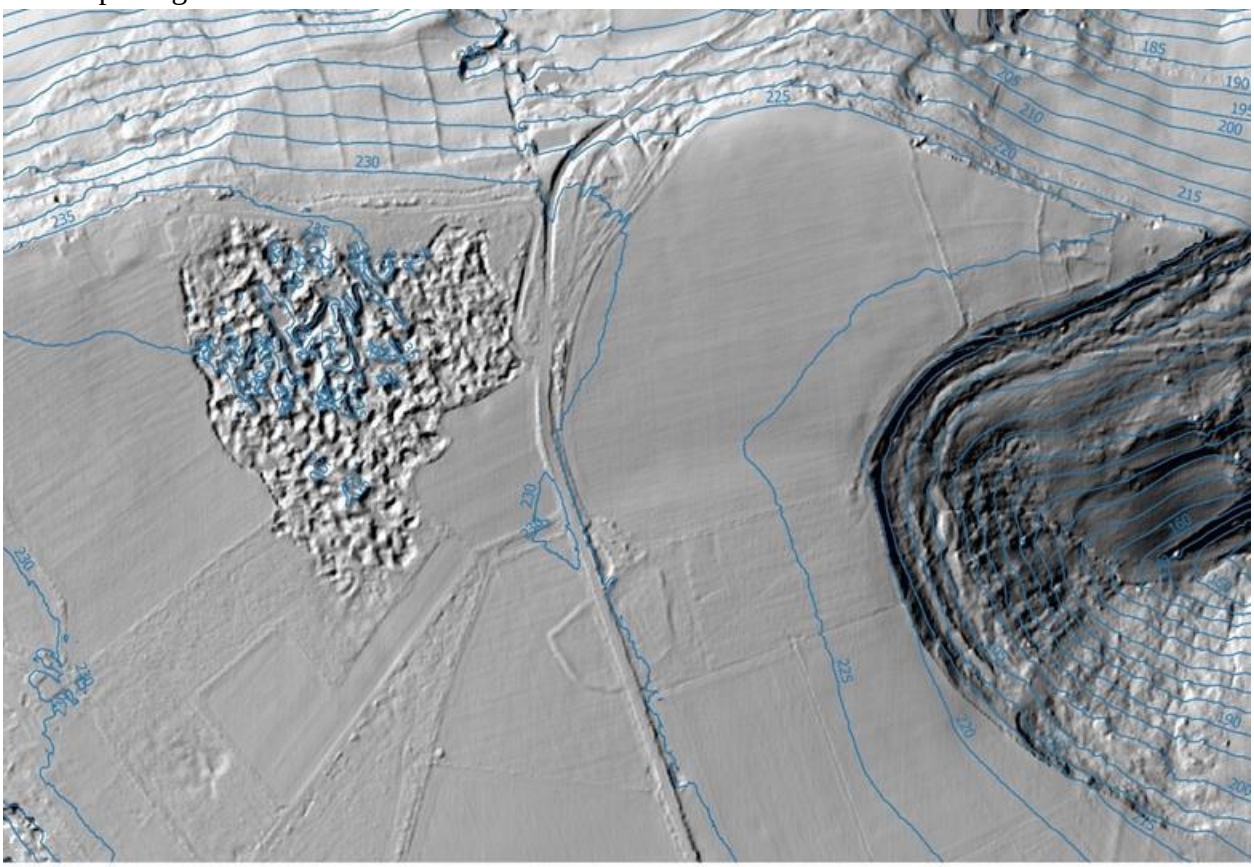

Figure 4.1 The northern Lansdown plateau seen in LiDAR, with hillshade and 5 m contours.

This gives a general impression of how flat this area is, and how steeply it falls away at the edges. Features such as field boundaries and ploughlines can be seen, as well as the monuments, such as indications of the settlement which spans the corners of Monument Field and Settlement Field, and Lansdown Camp cut by the road, in Paddock and Playing Fields. Another possible settlement can be seen in the woods to the south-west of Four Acre Field, near the Roman building remains at Brockham End HER 61353.

The quarried area consists of just less than 20 acres (80,000 m^2) of pits and tips as shown in figure 4.1 LiDAR.

The magnetometry is displayed in figure 4.2 below.

Figure 4.2. The combined magnetometry displayed for the surveyed area, courtesy Google Earth.

Intense activity, probably domestic and industrial, can be seen spreading from Settlement Field into eastern Monument Field. Other activities in Monument Field may relate either to the Civil War battle (AD1643) or to First World War training.

Paddock Field shows part of the Lansdown Camp, indistinct there as it has suffered degradation, with a clear trackway crossing the field diagonally. The western half of the Lansdown Camp can be seen more clearly, and it can be observed on the ground. To the west of this, magnetic disturbance is high but not clearly defined.

Four Acre Field has the series of pits and the half rounded feature at its northern end, which could even be pre-historic if the quarries that truncate it may be Roman. In the field to the South East at ST 718 698, in 1966, staff and students from Kingswood School, Bath, found a flint chipping floor (HER 61379: Prehistoric flints, NE of Brockham End, North Stoke). They also had in the School museum Iron Age pottery and coin of the Dobunni (62475: Iron Age material, Brockham End, North Stoke), which, though it was described as found at Brockham End, their museum note stated “near quarry”. There were also indications of possible hut circles in this field, which could link it to nearby settlements. What had looked initially like possible features that might have indicated a road heading towards Settlement Field were not strongly

substantiated once the plot was tidied, though there is a very light shelving across the field shown in LiDAR imaging. It could also have possibly been an old field border. This feature is not visible in the results to the east across the Lansdown Road.

For evidence from geophysics results indicating any historical evidence for a past routeway across the field along the current bridleway, there was none besides a very faint ditch-like line just distinguishable in a highly-contrasted resistance image which could reflect recent arrangements.

The combined magnetic susceptibility (magsus) plot is shown for the whole area in figure 4.3. As measurement points were all located using GPS, it was possible to obtain a more integrated picture, with Ordnance Survey coordinates for positioning, although these have been omitted here to provide display of the general landscape using Google Earth.

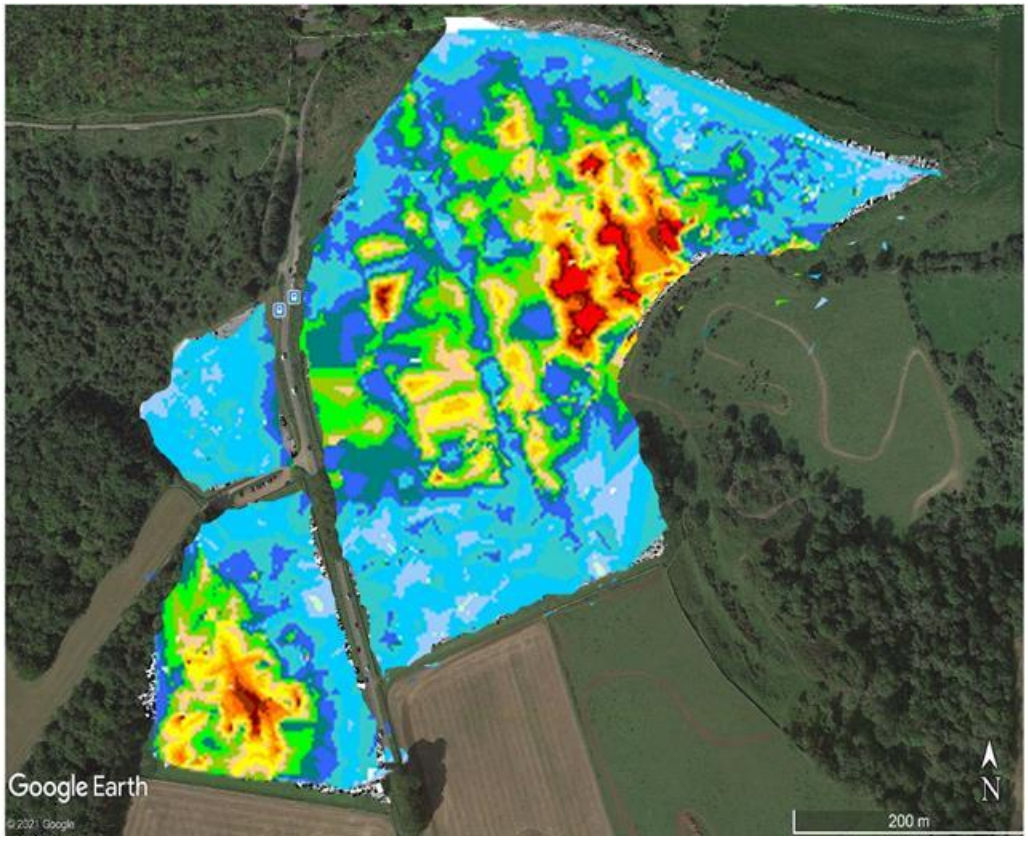

Figure 4.3. Magsus printout for the whole area surveyed.

Four Acre Field is not shown to have any major targets, but its results are consistent with values from the local area. The two areas of high intensity are still seen to be the settlement area and the patch to the west of Lansdown Camp. Given that this is a measure of effects only very close to the surface, it would be of interest to find out what materials are causing these high readings.

The twin-probe resistance plot for the whole survey area is shown in figure 4.4. Note that the survey of Monument Field was time-limited, which only allowed for a partial survey there using this method.

The principal benefit in resistance survey has been observing ditches as lighter features, and also observing undulations in the bedrock. It was particularly beneficial in Paddock Field in picking out parallel ditches either side of the diagonal track picked up by magnetometry, hinting this may have been of Roman origin connecting the settlement to a principal routeway.

The resistance imaging also added to the information about the long linear low resistance features in the ground crossing the fields. It is noted that in areas, especially on the eastern side of Lansdown Road, these are in two directions, at about 20° angled from each other. We have observed that these appear to correspond to ditched patterns in profiling in Paddock Field. They may be geological in origin. If not, when and whether they may have been created, for example in past agricultural practice, is not known.

Figure 4.4 Areas surveyed in twin-probe resistance.

5 Comment and conclusions

Four Acre Field covered a relatively small area in BACAS' progress in surveying northern Lansdown by geophysics. However, it fills a hiatus between Monument Field and the field containing Lansdown Camp; between eastern and western sides of the main road.

The magnetometry showed possible signs of round house settlement in the centre part of the field, but these were too faint to be asserted strongly. A possible route way pointed towards the settlement on the eastern side of Monument Field.

On the northern edge of the field, magnetometry also showed half an elliptical (north-south) feature, also visible in the resistance plot, and as a shallow depression, which was truncated by the intense pitting on the northern boundary. The pitting makes for a hazardous area, which would make further ground investigation as used here impossible.

The intense pitting is an area mentioned in two Anglo-Saxon charters, so probably represents Roman-period quarrying. This would indicate the half-feature as prehistoric. However, the pitting does not on show on any but the most recent maps, which could mean that it is a more recent landscape feature. The two arguments have been debated in Appendix B of this report, which has come down in favour of the former.

Magnetic Susceptibility measurements have also indicated continuity of land use across both sides of the road.

The survey can thus be regarded as a success both in finding new features which are possibly prehistoric and in terms of providing continuity of landscape understanding from east to west across the main road.

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Appendix A Details of grids and instrumentation

A1 Gridding

The field was divided into 20 m squares, with the baseline at the south, approximately 0.5 m north of the fence. Tapes were used to measure distances, and setting right angles by Pythagoras. Locations of 20 m grid corners were also marked using blue line marker as a temporary setting.

A2 Magnetometry

All grids were started at the south-western edge, heading north on the first traverse. A zigzag path was walked but the data logger automatically sorted data to parallel lines for processing. Readings were taken at 4 per metre along lines 1 m apart, giving 1600 readings per full square. Figure A1 shows the pattern of the grids.

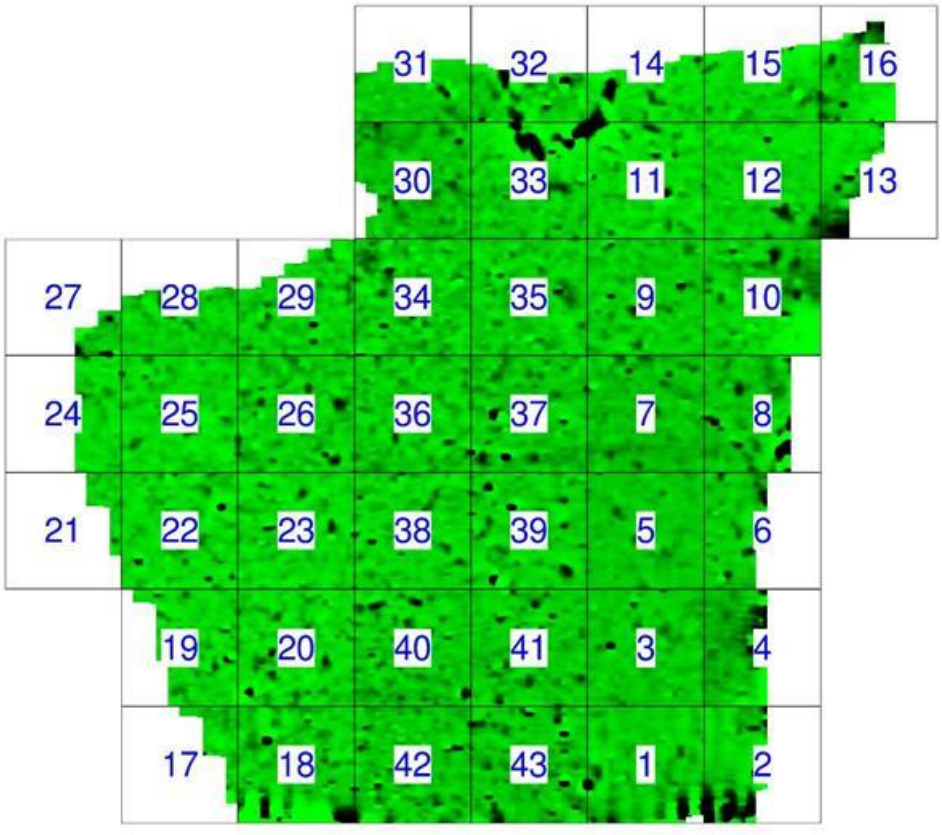

Figure A1 Magnetometry grid pattern.

A2 Magnetic Susceptibility (Magsus)

Approximately 220 readings were taken at random locations around and across the field. Locations were measured with a Garmin ETREX hand-held GPS device, precise to 1 m but only accurate to between 2 and 5 m. A high reading density was taken on part of the north end of the field in case the anomaly discovered there produced higher magsus readings.

The locations of the readings are shown in figure A2. Many, but not all grid corner post locations are shown, with readings being taken at most of these. Ordnance Survey grid readings for ST square for Ordinate and abscissa.

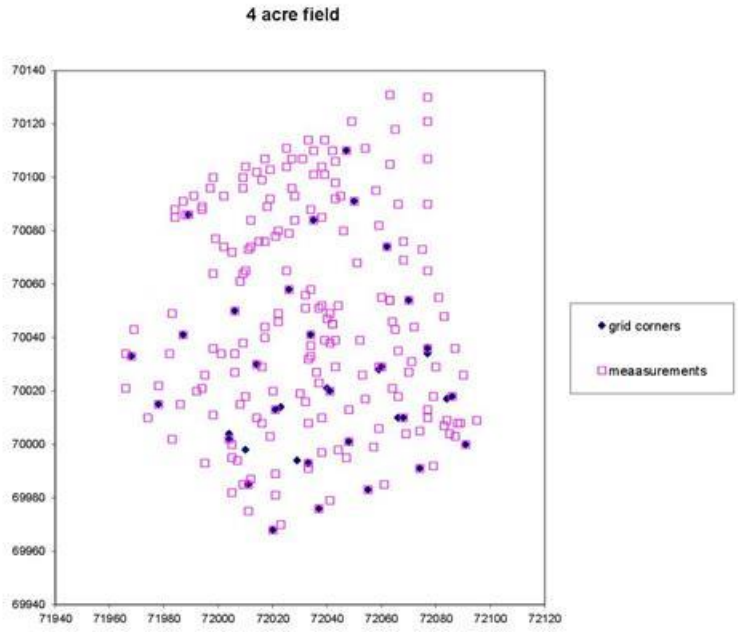

Figure A2 Plot-out in Ordnance Survey coordinates of grid corner posts and magsus measurement locations.

A3 Twin-probe Resistance

The sequence of the twin-probe resistance grids is shown in figure A3. Two Frobisher RM3 devices with half-metre probe spacing were used in the survey, but kept far enough apart that they did not interfere with each other. Readings were taken at half-metre intervals along traverses 1 m apart, giving 800 readings per full 20 m square. Zigzag pattern was walked but the software automatically converted this to parallel lines for processing. All grids were started at the south-west corner, with the first traverse heading north.

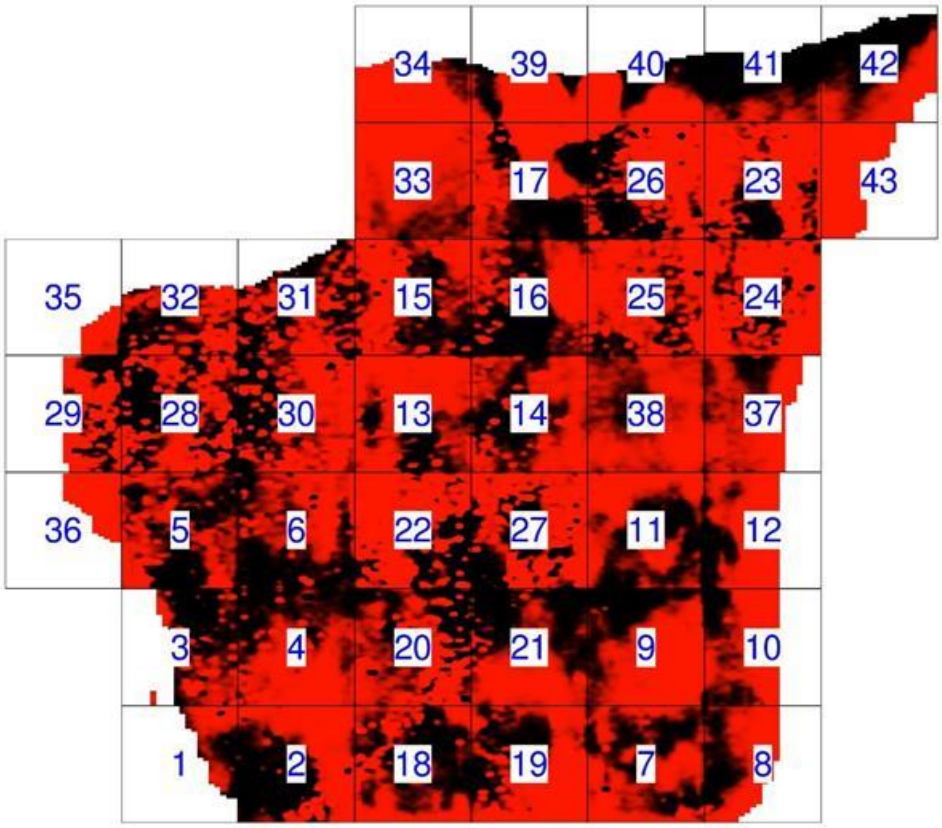

Figure A3. Grid arrangement for twin-probe resistance plot.

Appendix B The Anglo-Saxon Charters

Four Acre Field is just to the south of the boundary between (Old) Somerset and (Old) Gloucestershire, which was considered the boundary between 'Wessex' and 'Mercia'. Sawyer quotes these charters in one volume as:-

265: AD808 for 757*758. Cynewulf, king of the Saxons, to the brethren of St Peter's Minster, Bath; grant of land at North Stoke, Somerset. *Latin with English bounds…*authentic.

414: AD931. King Athelstan to the *familia* of St Peter's, Bath; grant of land at Priston, Somerset, and at Cold Ashton, Gloucs. *Latin with English bounds*…spurious.

664: AD955*957. King Eadwig to the church of St Peter, Bath; grant of land at Olveston, Gloucs., and restoration of land at Cold Ashton, Gloucs. *Latin with English bounds…*authentic.

Finberg (1964) quotes, p116, **388**, Cynewulf, king of the [West] Saxons, to the brethren of St Peters, Bath. 5 "mansiones" in *Northstoc* . Misdated 808 as the reign of Cynewulf ended in 757.

Finberg (1961) quotes, p52, **93**, Athelstan, king of the English and of the other peoples round about, to St Peter's, Bath. 10 'mansae' at *Pristun* and 5 at *AEsctun* (Cold Ashton), free of all but three common dues…no reason to doubt grant was made, but date of the text is inconsistent [with attestations]. Bounds: Grundy, pp 90-98; p54, **103**, 955*957, Eadwig, monarch of Albion, to St Peter's, Bath 5 "mansae" at *Alvestune* and 5 at *AEsctune* previously granted by King Athelstan but since usurped; to be held free of all but the three common dues. Text refers to Grundy (but quotes the earlier reference for Ashton's bounds. He suggests that the usurpation applied only to Cold Ashton.

Grundy's account of the bounds of both manors are relevant here, but there have been questions on how accurate his translations were and comments that he worked from maps without necessarily visiting the localities. However, the work should be given credit, especially for its period (1930's) as a major contribution to local studies. Both bounds appear to describe the same section of border where the manors coincide.

Grundy's Somerset (North Stoke) charter starts at Swineford, which can be recognized today on the River Avon, then heads up a stream to its well, and then along a hedgerow to *Luttes Crundele*. This word is in common with Cold Ashton, which he translates as 'quarry'. The next few references are surmised by Grundy, but the charter runs back to *afene* [Avon] and back along the river to Swineford.

Grundy's Gloucestershire (Cold Ashton) charter starts at *Th' is fram Heort Leage westeweardre..* This can reasonably be taken as Hartley farm and Hartley Wood on the north-west slope of Charmy Down, just east of the A46. The bound continues west via a boundary hedge, 'Wadham' and edge to *Eanswythe Wyllas.* This is most likely the massive, prolific spring on the eastern bound of Lilliput Farm a little below the ridge top. It then continues via the *Hwyrfel Dic* to *tham Crundelum*. This is the same word as used in the North Stoke charter and was translated as 'quarries'. It continues via the *Readan Weg,* then down through *Sceagan, Lege* and *Wyrttruman*

to *tha Rode neorthewearde…*This would suggest a route going down over Hanging Hill and continuing northward, although there is still some speculation in this.

These two charters would allow (but not prove) the *Crundelum* to coincide at the area of intense pitting on the north-west side of Four Acre Field, especially as the descriptions are some two centuries apart. Indeed, this deeply pitted area (visible in figure 3.8) is much larger than the field. Note that the modern boundary is marked as passing straight through the middle of this impassible area.

The online Anglo-Saxon dictionary (https://bosworthtoller.com/search?q=crundel, last visited 24th April 2024) gives the meaning as: barrow, tumulus or strip of cover in a dip, with running water, or possibly a ravine (see also Clark's 1916 dictionary, (https://archive.org/details/AConciseAnglo-saxonDictionary, last visited 24th April 2024). None of these meanings are particularly close to the landscape as it is here, but any way through these extensive (quarry) pits might appear like a ravine.

The problem then comes with maps through the 19th and early 20th centuries, which until very recently shows just a large field undifferentiated in use, although quarries locally are depicted on some of these maps.

Somerset HER 66896 (https://www.somersetheritage.org.uk/record/66896#, last viewed 24th April 2024) quotes texts by Strachey (1730) as ' a cluster of pits without any continued ditch' and almost contemporary John Wood the Elder as a "labyrinth of holes, ditches, banks and barrows' and by Playne (1875) as 'some seven or eight acres of hilltop,…covered with mounds 10 to 15 ft. high, with narrow hollows between them. Thee mounds form a labyrinth or maze.'

This does suggest that the pits were already there and known before the maps were drawn, and it appears to be lazy mapping that denies their presence.

On these grounds, it is reasonable to identify *crundelum* as being this pitted area representing quarrying from Anglo-Saxon, or more likely, Roman, times. If the southern edge of the area is part of such, any structure removed by these pits could be taken as prehistoric.